

WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS

"Buck Tradition"

written by
Paige Carlson

A SPEC SCRIPT

July 27, 2020

COLD OPEN

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

LASZLO and NADJA are walking, arm-in-arm, down an empty, dilapidated city street. They are dressed in nicer clothes than usual.

LASZLO (V.O.)
On this night, some four hundred years ago, I first laid eyes on a beautifully terrifying creature outside my window.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH LASZLO AND NADJA

Laszlo is looking lovingly over at a lovestruck Nadja.

LASZLO
That night, my dear Nadja stole my life, my mortality, my blood, and my heart.

He reaches out for her hand, and she takes it- giving a squeeze.

NADJA
If he weren't so darling that last one would have been literal.

Laszlo kisses her knuckles.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

They continue to walk down the street, acting like a newlywed couple. Interspersed with Laszlo's voice over are time-accurate photos of a storefront changing from a theater house, to an abandoned building, to an adult shop, to a Blockbuster, and back to an abandoned building.

LASZLO (V.O.)
Ever since we came to Staten Island, we've spent our anniversary at the same spot. It used to house a wonderful, dramatic theatrical troupe. Then they went out of business after a series of unexplained murders.

Nadja winks at the camera.

LASZLO (V.O.)
Then came the sex shop, and then the Blockbuster Video.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH LASZLO AND NADJA

They are no longer holding hands, but are still close to each other.

NADJA

When it was a theater house, we would have a show and then dinner.

LASZLO

Order is important. If we had dinner first we could have ended up eating the main actor and ruined the show.

NADJA

(nods)

Exactly. Then my favorite nights were when it was abandoned and we would partake in the most erotic of roleplay and have wild sex.

LASZLO

The scenes were only outperformed by our sexual energy.

NADJA

The sex shop was my second favorite. Who knew after having wild, passionate lovemaking after all these years there was still so much to explore? But then it closed. And in its place...

Nadja frowns, disgusted by this.

NADJA (CONT'D)

Was a Blockblasted video rental shithole. There was nothing sexy about it. So for the past three decades, we've been without our spot. We've managed, but Laszlo says he has a surprise for me for this year.

LASZLO

I sure do, Darling. I sure do.

Laszlo winks at the camera.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

They're on the same sidewalk.

LASZLO

Now dear, you might not know this, but recently something *terrible* has happened to the video store in our spot.

NADJA

Something *terrible*?

LASZLO

Oh yes. You see, the beast fell.

NADJA

Oh dear, what happened?

LASZLO

Nothing that can be explained, Darling.

Laszlo glances at the camera with a raised brow like he had something to do with it.

LASZLO (CONT'D)

But that's not important. What is important is-

He covers her eyes, and she claps her hands, giddy with excitement.

NADJA

Laszlo, oh, don't tell me-

He drives her in front of a building and uncovers her eyes, not looking up himself. He pulls his hands from her and she looks upon the building. Both of their faces are bright with excitement before falling into puzzlement. The building's lights are on, and the storefront says UCIT. Laszlo goes to the window and reads the large poster.

LASZLO

The Upright Citizen's Improv Theater?
What the shit?

OPENING CREDITS

ACT ONE

INT. IMPROV THEATER - NIGHT

Laszlo and Nadja stand by the entrance, the door open but they can't enter as they have received no invitation. So they watch from the door. On the floor are two improv actors in front of a small gathering of people. Nadja and Laszlo stay in the shadows of the room. Two actors, GEORGE and SHERRY, are finishing a scene.

GEORGE

Glitter? That's just holographic crack!

The crowd erupts into laughter. The leader, Jerry, stands and applauds.

JERRY

Great work you two. Much better than last time!

JERRY then notices Laszlo and Nadja.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Oh hey! Are you two here to join the open improv practice?

Laszlo and Nadja exchange a glance.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Come in, come in, take a seat! Don't be shy! Okay, next - let's get Sarah, Rochelle, Doug, and Mark.

They take the invitation and enter into the theater, taking their seats. The seats are small and metal, clearly cheap and very old. Laszlo and Nadja are far overdressed for the room. The seats creek awkwardly, they could break at any time.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

NANDOR is stalking a victim. A guy on the phone.

VICTIM

(into phone)

Yeah, bro! I totally am going to bang her mom. I can do it since her husband left. I just need to -

Nandor appears from the shadows and hisses, legitimately appearing frightening.

VICTIM (CONT'D)

AHHHHH!

The victim takes off running over grass, and Nandor isn't far behind until his shoe catches into some deep mud. There's a *riiip* sound as he tumbles into the mud.

VICTIM (CONT'D)

AHHHHhhh- Bro- What the fuck?

The victim, previously terrified, is now looking on with a grin and a mocking laugh. Nandor raises his mud-covered face and hisses.

VICTIM (CONT'D)

Okay, whatever dude.

(back to phone)

Dude you would *not* believe the freak I just saw in the park....

INT. MANSION. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Nandor is sitting on the couch in the library. He's pouting as GUILLERMO goes over Nandor's cloak, caked in mud, with a Tide-to-Go stick.

NANDOR

It was the worst. I haven't been that embarrassed since I voted for Nixon.

Guillermo stops with the Tide pen, questioning.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

He had a soothing voice, okay?

GUILLERMO

It's just I didn't think you voted, Master.

NANDOR

Of course I vote, what am I, a potato who sits around and lets others choose my destiny?

INT. INTERVIEW WITH NANDOR

Nandor is sitting, facing us.

NANDOR

When you're immortal, there are few things that are really exciting after the first six hundred years. But voting always gives me the giddies.

Nandor lifts up an old Ottoman Empire battle helmet, but it's covered in American 'I voted' stickers.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

But it's also my civic duty.

INT. MANSION. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Nandor is still upset about what happened earlier. He picks up his shoe, the heel has been completely torn off.

NANDOR

Look what happened to my shoe! Do you know how long these shoes have lasted? Fifty years!

GUILLERMO

Wow. That's a pretty good cobbler then.

NANDOR

Yes. The best. The only one I've bought shoes from for centuries.

GUILLERMO

Is he also a vampire?

Nandor hisses at the suggestion.

NANDOR

Don't be stupid, Guillermo.

He leans back, calming down.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

They're a dwarf and his son. And then his son. And then his son. Puny little guys.

Guillermo looks at the camera.

GUILLERMO

(quietly)

I don't know if he means like, a real dwarf or a short person-

NANDOR

Guillermo, go and buy me a new pair. Send my regards. I would go but I have no shoes.

Nandor grabs some paper and a pen.

GUILLERMO

Master, perhaps it would be wise to get more than one pair this time-

Nandor scribbles down an address, holding out the paper.

NANDOR

Here is the address. Get me the kind with extra support. And a little bit bigger. My feetsies are tired and have been feeling trapped.

Guillermo takes the paper and reads it and looks a bit surprised.

GUILLERMO

Oh, it's in the mall.

NANDOR

Well? What are you waiting for? Go!

Guillermo looks at his watch.

GUILLERMO

Uh, it's almost ten. What are the mall's hours?

ALEXA

The hours are from 9am until 11pm weekdays, and 10am until 12am weekends.

Nandor and Guillermo glance at each other. At the door is COLIN ROBINSON. Next to him, on an antique counter, is a very modern Amazon Echo. On the ground, a Roomba beeps and goes past him into the room. It's trying its best.

COLIN ROBINSON

Hey guys. Meet my new familiars.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH COLIN

Colin is sitting on his bed. As he speaks, there is footage of Alexa lighting up and turning on the lights in the foyer, and a Roomba getting stuck on a rug.

COLIN ROBINSON

So I've never had a familiar. Energy vampires don't really have them. I tried once but after a few days I had drained all his energy and he wouldn't stop sleeping on the couch. I ended up having to do his bidding for a bit, so it sort of beat the purpose. But recently I figured, why not try a robot familiar?

The Roomba bumps into Nandor's socked foot. Nandor is very frustrated by this.

COLIN ROBINSON (CONT'D)

Also, they're great for feeding.

Roomba backs up, tries again, and bumps into Nandor's foot again. And again. And again.

COLIN ROBINSON (CONT'D)

Yeah, it's a knock-off.

His eyes glow with the power he had gained.

INT. IMPROV THEATER - NIGHT

Nadja looks bored out of her mind, but Laszlo is deeply invested in what he's watching. He laughs along with the crowd.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH LASZLO

This interview is overlaid with art depicting painters and actors in the 1500s.

LASZLO

I know it might surprise you folk, but I've always been quite the artist. From painting to performing. In fact, as soon as Shakespeare saw me read one of his sonnets to my darling Nadja, he cast me in all of his shows. He was a good man.

He shakes his head in mourning.

LASZLO (CONT'D)

He's not dead, it's just after the unwarranted fame from *Romeo and Juliet* he's become an insufferable prick so he is dead to me.

INT. IMPROV THEATER - NIGHT

Nadja rolls her eyes and tugs on Laszlo's sleeve.

NADJA

Darling. Let's go. We can find another abandoned building for you to ravage my body in. I'm so bored it's almost as though Colin Robinson is here.

Laszlo looks longingly at the stage and then back at Nadja.

LASZLO

I suppose I should have known it would come to this. My two great loves locked in merciless battle. But alas, there is only one that is the greater. Let's go, my love.

The two stand up to leave. This catches Jerry's attention.

JERRY

Hey, you two leaving already? Don't you wanna give it a go?

Laszlo stares pleadingly at Nadja. Nadja rolls her eyes and waves her hand.

NADJA

Go. Have your fun.

Her hand grabs his shirt and pulls him close.

NADJA (CONT'D)

If you promise I can have mine later.

Laszlo is taken in by her seduction.

LASZLO

You certainly know how to make a deal.

He collects himself and heads down to the stage where he's joined by George and Sherry.

JERRY

Have you done much improv before -

LASZLO

Laszlo. And yes. I've done it quite a few times over my lifetime.

JERRY

Great. Since it's your first time with us, let's keep things simple with "Yes, And."E

George and Sherry take their spots on the stage around Laszlo. George mimes taking food out of a bag. Sherry soon follows suit. Laszlo clumsily follows along - not quite sure what he's doing. He's never had take-out.

GEORGE

These new fried butter burgers are awesome.

SHERRY

Yes, and I can't believe how big they are!

Sherry mimes taking out a HUGE burger. There are chuckles from the crowd.

LASZLO

Yes, and it reminds me of the time I saw a great whale that had been beached. It was so bloated that eventually the gasses caused its stomach to burst, blowing guts all over the town. I had to move because then all the humans tasted like- I mean, smelled like garbage and fish guts.

The crowd is quiet in an awkward silence.

JERRY

Good first try, Laszlo. Remember to keep your sentence short, it helps the game move. Let's try a different scene.

George and Sherry reset. George mimes driving a car. Sherry overly mimes getting into the car, earning another chuckle from the audience. Laszlo, thrown off, awkwardly takes his spot back middle.

GEORGE

So your dad's letting us stay in his old cabin in the woods?

SHERRY

Yes! And he says he's got extra
deadbolts on the door this time.

LASZLO

Yes, and that's good because should we
perish, our dear parents will find
themselves utterly devastated when
they come across our entrails strewn
across the floor. Mother will surely
weep as she holds her expired child
close to her ample bosom.

The room is silent again. Nadja is growing evermore
impatient.

NADJA

Yes, and at least then you wouldn't
have to sit through this. Because
you'd be dead.

The crowd roars with laughter. Nadja and Laszlo are taken
aback from the reaction.

JERRY

(to Nadja)

Wonderful, Miss! Do you want to come
up and try a scene?

NADJA

I'd sooner eat you.

The crowd becomes rowdy at the (unintended) innuendo.

NADJA (CONT'D)

No, I'm being literal.

Everyone is still taking her figuratively.

NADJA (CONT'D)

Laszlo, you made me a promise. Let's
go.

She reaches out for a dejected Laszlo, grabbing his hand and
pulling him out of the theater.

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT TWO

INT. INTERVIEW WITH LASZLO AND NADJA

Later that night. He's very upset. Nadja has her hand on his, trying to calm him.

LASZLO

What happened? Improv is shite, that's what happened. Ruined my anniversary it did.

NADJA

Of course it's shite, dear. It was created by stupid little humans trying to have a moment to forget about their impending deaths.

LASZLO

You're right. Of course you're right.

He pauses. There is a long moment of silence as Laszlo thinks.

LASZLO

Then why the fuck do I still want to be good at it?

COLIN ROBINSON

Alexa, turn off the lights.

ALEXA

Okay.

The lights in the room turn off.

NADJA

What?!

LASZLO

Hey!

Colin pops his head into the room.

COLIN ROBINSON

Oh, hey guys, didn't see you there.
Alexa, turn on the lights.

ALEXA

Okay.

Colin definitely saw them there. His eyes glow.

INT. MALL - NIGHT

Guillermo is standing in front of a store in a typical mall.
He has his phone out.

GUILLERMO

So it turns out that the cobbler
Master has gotten his shoes from for
centuries went out of business forty
years ago. It's still a shoe store
it's just...

He gestures to the store. It's a Croc store.

GUILLERMO (CONT'D)

I don't think Crocs and vampires go
together.

He laughs at the ridiculousness of it before pausing.

GUILLERMO (CONT'D)

Do they? Should I get Master a pair?

(pause)

I shouldn't. No, of course not.

(pause)

But, really, should I?

Quite the conundrum.

INT. MANSION. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Nadja and Laszlo are sitting opposite of each other.

NADJA

Dear, it's a very dumbass game. I
don't know why you care.

LASZLO

Because I'm a great actor! Now again!

Nadja rolls her eyes and leans back.

NADJA

I hate this fucking stupid shit improv
thing.

LASZLO

Yes, and although you hate it, I will master it.

NADJA

Yes, and that place was so much better when it sold dildos instead of have them perform.

LASZLO

Yes, and- Colin Robinson, for fuck's sake! Quit draining us!

Colin has quietly been in the room.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH COLIN

As Colin speaks, there's flashes of him at small improv performances. Members of the audience are cringing at the awkwardness on stage, Colin's eyes are glowing.

COLIN ROBINSON

I love improv. I mean, bad improv. But is there another kind? Cringe offers some of the best energy. And now it's in the house? Score.

INT. MANSION. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Nadja and Laszlo have gone back to their practice when Nandor comes in and sees the three of them in the room.

NANDOR

What is this? A house meeting? And you invited Colin Robinson but not me? I am very hurt by this cliquiness. Cliques are only okay when I'm in them too.

NADJA

That would be much less pathetic. Laszlo is trying to impress some humans.

NANDOR

Really? Why would you want to do that? Humans are not so cool.

Nandor looks to the camera.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

No offense. But you are lame.

LASZLO

I do not want to impress humans. I am just trying to get very good at a craft so that when I go back next they can't help but admire my unparalleled ability.

COLIN ROBINSON

Alexa, what is the definition of "impress."

ALEXA

To impress: Verb. To cause others to admire or respect oneself.

COLIN ROBINSON

Huh.

NANDOR

Hard to argue with that.

LASZLO

Shut up!

ALEXA

I'm sorry, I didn't catch that.

LASZLO

Shut up or I will drag each and every part of you out from your little plastic body and toss you into the nearest frozen wasteland.

NADJA

Just let it go, Laszlo-

ALEXA

Playing *Let It Go* from the Frozen soundtrack.

Laszlo lunges for Alexa, nearly tripping on the Roomba.

LASZLO

Fuck this shit- what the Hell is going on in this house?! Colin Robinson, control your familiars!

ALEXA

The front door has been opened.

The whole room becomes alert. Soon, Guillermo comes into the doorway with a bag from the Croc store. There is a collective sigh of relief.

NANDOR

Guillermo, what have I told you about scaring us?

GUILLERMO

Sorry, Master.

Nandor reaches for the bag, there are two shoeboxes. He takes out one shoebox. He sits down and pulls out bright yellow crocs.

NANDOR

What the shit are these? These are not my shoes!

GUILLERMO

Yeah, your cobbler went out of business. And there was a Croc store-

Nandor tries them on.

NANDOR

Hmmm....

He stands up and starts to walk in them.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

It is like I am wearing no shoes at all. These crocodiles... I like them.

GUILLERMO

(quietly)
They're Crocs, Master....

LASZLO

Let me see those crocodiles.

Nandor tosses the bag with the unopened shoebox to Laszlo. Laszlo takes out black crocs.

GUILLERMO

Your old shoes were black, but you wear a lot of gold so I thought that yellow might be nice.

LASZLO

Why, these are quite comfortable.

NADJA

You can be seen with me or with those.

Laszlo shrugs and looks to the camera.

LASZLO

You heard the Missus.

COLIN ROBINSON

I'd like them.

Laszlo gives them to Colin.

COLIN ROBINSON (CONT'D)

I can't wait until the people at the office see these. So many groans.

Colin smiles at his new crocs.

EXT. EMPTY STREET - NIGHT

Nandor is stalking the same victim. The victim is scrolling through his phone. Nandor is frightening as he stalks after his prey. Nandor moves from the shadows, and his bright yellow crocs are visible. He turns into vapor and appears right in front of the victim.

VICTIM

WHOA! You again?!

The victim sees the crocs.

VICTIM (CONT'D)

Are those fucking *Crocs*?

The victim laughs. Nandor frowns, looking down at his shoes.

NANDOR

You're just jealous I'm comfortable and you're not. What the Hell are you wearing?

VICTIM

Not Crocs. Loser.

He's not scared of Nandor. He walks right past him. He puts the phone to his ear.

VICTIM (CONT'D)

Dude the same cosplayer just showed up wearing the ugliest Crocs I've ever seen-

He enters an apartment building. Nandor tries to follow after, but is stopped as he hasn't been invited.

INT. MANSION. OFFICE - NIGHT

Laszlo sits at his writing desk. Paper is strewn about. He is hard at work.

LASZLO (V.O.)
What is improvisation but acting?

He dips his pen, starts to write but it's not working. He swears and dips it again.

LASZLO (V.O.)
And what do all actors need?

He writes a little bit but his pen stops working once more. He's getting frustrated. One of the camera crew offers a BIC ballpoint pen. Laszlo hisses and waves it away and tries with his pen again.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH LASZLO

LASZLO
A script.

He holds up the script, between his fingers is the same BIC pen that he had been offered earlier.

LASZLO (CONT'D)
I am a writer and I am an actor. I write lines. I memorize lines. And then I perform them. So I have written out clever jokes using my clever brain.

He flips through the paper, showing each page filled with jokes.

LASZLO (CONT'D)
Now I will memorize them. And then, I will perform them. Flawlessly. Just like I flawlessly performed Hamlet's soliloquy in the 1600's.

INT. MANSION. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Laszlo is in front of a mirror, practicing his lines. Obviously, his reflection doesn't show. Nadja is sitting with the script.

LASZLO
(to the camera)
This was much easier when I had my reflection. Oh well. Nadja, dear, start me off.

Nadja puts the script down, slinking towards him. Seducing him.

NADJA

It would be my pleasure, my sweet,
ferocious lover. It is our anniversary
and you have yet to-

Laszlo cups her cheek.

LASZLO

In time, darling. But I first need you
to help me with my lines.

Nadja frowns and turns with a huff.

NADJA

No! You want to spend tonight with
this? Then you will be alone with it!

She storms out of the room.

LASZLO

Nadja-
(sighs)
Well, it can't be helped.

He tosses the script to one of the film crew

LASZLO (CONT'D)

Feed me the line.

FILM CREW GUY

(reading)
There was a ghost at the grocery
store.

LASZLO

Yes, and he was checking out the boo-
berries.

There are small chuckles from the crew. Laszlo is very proud
of this joke.

LASZLO (CONT'D)

Tomorrow, I will dominate the UCIT
open improv class. Mark my words.

ALEXA

UCIT Improv Class marked down for
tomorrow.

LASZLO

Shut it.

ALEXA

Okay.

Laszlo is quite pleased with that response.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

The front door is open.

INT. MANSION. FOYER - NIGHT

Nandor walks in, dejected. Guillermo is in the foyer awaiting Nandor's return. Nandor, upset, stomps through the house.

NANDOR

GUILLERMO!

Guillermo is right there. He trots after a very peeved Nandor.

GUILLERMO

I'm right here, Master.

NANDOR

Don't sass me.

GUILLERMO

Of course, Master. Is... everything okay?

They turn into Nandor's room. He begins to get ready for his slumber. Guillermo is bustling about to help him. Nandor places his cloak on a mannequin, Guillermo adjusts it.

NANDOR

My crocodiles are stupid.

He throws his crocs to the side and steps up to his coffin, Guillermo helps him inside.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

Tomorrow we will venture to the indoor bazaar together.

GUILLERMO

(to the camera)

The mall.

NANDOR

And we will get new shoes.

GUILLERMO

Yes, Master.

NANDOR

And I will get rid of the Crocs.

GUILLERMO

Do you want me to return them now? I think the receipt is still in the bag.

Guillermo picks them up. Nandor looks longingly at them.

NANDOR

... No. We'll return them together. Leave them with my cloak.

GUILLERMO

Yes, Master. Sleep tight, Master.

Guillermo closes the coffin and sets the crocs under the cloak.

NANDOR

(From inside the coffin)
Guillermo?

GUILLERMO

Yes, Master?

NANDOR

I'm going to try it.

Guillermo looks at the camera and then back at the coffin.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

Guillermo?

GUILLERMO

Yes, Master, go ahead.

NANDOR

(very muffled)
Alexa, turn off the lights.

ALEXA

I'm so-

Guillermo quickly turns down the volume on the Alexa.

NANDOR

Did it work? Are the lights off?

Guillermo turns the lights off.

GUILLERMO

Yes, Master. The lights are off.

NANDOR

Woohoo! Yay!

He glances at the camera again, putting his finger in front of his lips - don't tell Nandor the truth, it would make him sad.

EXT. OUTSIDE IMPROV THEATER - NEXT EVENING

Nadja is not happy to be there. Laszlo is very excited.

LASZLO

Tonight is the night. I can feel it.
That entire room is going to bow to my
superior ability.

Nadja rolls her eyes.

NADJA

(to camera)

I am only here because Laszlo has
promised me that afterwards we can
have the romantic meal and passionate
night we were supposed to have
yesterday.

LASZLO

And darling, I plan to make good on
that. But first, we must assert our
dominance over humans through
improvisational acting!

They come up to the same theater. They enter.

INT. IMPROV THEATER - NIGHT

There's a smaller crowd. Jerry, George, and Sherry are still there.

JERRY

Oh, hey Laszlo! Good to see you again!

LASZLO

Afraid I couldn't let that be your
impression of me. I was off my game.

JERRY

Ah, we all have those days. We were
just changing games. Come and join us.

LASZLO

Don't mind if I do!

Laszlo gets up and joins George and Sherry on the stage. Nadja crosses her arms and waits in the back.

JERRY

Let's warm up again, with "Yes,
And." Laszlo, start us off.

LASZLO

Certainly. Did you know there was
ghost at the grocery store.

GEORGE

Yes, and he had a loooooonnnngg
shopping list.

SHERRY

Yes, and he had to ask for help.

The room is quiet, staring at Laszlo in anticipation.

LASZLO

Yes, and he especially needed help
finding the boo-berries.

The room erupts into laughter. Laszlo is very pleased and catches Nadja's eyes. She offers small applause herself, proud of her husband. Laszlo later returns to her side.

NADJA

I suppose you wish to stay a little
longer?

LASZLO

Dear, I would be so grateful. I'm on
fire tonight.

NADJA

Very well.

LASZLO

Thank you, my darling.

He turns to the camera.

LASZLO (CONT'D)

Nailed it.

He turns his attention back to the stage, laughing heartily at the shenanigans going on.

INT. MALL - NIGHT

Nandor and Guillermo are standing outside the Croc store. Under Guillermo's arm is the shoebox with the yellow crocs.

Nandor is wearing Colin's shiny office shoes. They don't look right with his elegant cloak.

NANDOR

This is it. The crocodile store.

GUILLERMO

Croc- ah, yes, Master

NANDOR

May I see them? One last time?

Guillermo opens the shoebox. Nandor takes it and sits on a bench in the mall.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

I did not know them very long, but they were unlike anything I had ever worn before.

Guillermo sits down next to Nandor. Nandor hisses at him for getting so casual, and Guillermo stands up immediately.

GUILLERMO

Master, if I may, you don't have to return them. I mean, you're a vampire. Who cares if someone doesn't like your shoes? Just eat them.

NANDOR

It is important to dress as you wish to be seen. I am not silly.

GUILLERMO

No, you aren't, Master.

NANDOR

Just, give me a moment with them. Please.

Guillermo nods. He stands up and moves away, nodding towards the camera.

GUILLERMO

Hey, follow me, okay? Give the guy some space.

The camera crew and Guillermo leave Nandor mourning on a bench in the middle of a fluorescently-lit mall.

INT. IMPROV THEATER - NIGHT

Jerry is applauding as people leave the stage and return to their seats.

JERRY

Great job, all. Okay. Let's wrap up with One-Word Story! Everyone, come on up. Laszlo, invite your wife to join us. This game is easy. We're just making up a story one word at a time.

LASZLO

(to Nadja)

I didn't plan for this. I didn't write lines for this much less rehearse-

NADJA

(to Laszlo)

It's just one word, Laszlo.

The actors are in a circle with an opening for Laszlo and Nadja.

JERRY

You guys coming?

Laszlo looks at Nadja who takes his hand firmly and leads him up to the rest.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Great. Okay. I'll start: One.

GEORGE

Day.

SHERRY

I.

NADJA

Drank.

LASZLO

Pen. No. Dammit! I panicked.

JERRY

That's okay, Laz. Let's try again: Once.

GEORGE

We.

SHERRY

Made.

NADJA

Love.

The group reacts with encouragement. Laszlo freezes up. Nadja leans into him to feed him a line.

NADJA (CONT'D)
(whispering)
And.

LASZLO
Anteater. No!

JERRY
That's alright, Laszlo, improv is hard! Keep at it-

LASZLO
No! I spent all night writing and rehearsing my lines for this. All we had to do was keep playing the same game. You're all an enormous disappointment to Shakespeare, I hope you know that! If he were here and not frolicking naked on a beach in France surrounded by prostitutes he would curse you for this mockery of his craft! I'm leaving!

He storms out of the building.

NADJA
Laszlo?! Love! Please wait!

Nadja turns to the group and hisses before she rushes after Laszlo.

FADE TO BLACK.

ACT THREE

INT. MALL - NIGHT

Guillermo is scrolling through his phone.

NANDOR

Guillermo.

Guillermo looks up, and joins Nandor in front of the Croc store.

GUILLERMO

Are you ready?

NANDOR

No. I could never be.

He dramatically stares at the shoebox.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

But the mall closes soon. So I must be.

The moment is very akin to saying farewell to a fallen comrade. Nandor is somber. Guillermo is uncomfortable. The CLERK is unaware of the traumatic moment.

CLERK

Hello! Welcome to the Croc store! Come on in! How can we help you?

Nandor takes the invitation and walks in with Guillermo. Guillermo puts the box on the counter.

GUILLERMO

I was in the other day and -

Nandor is looking around the shop when he sees a wall of Croc charms.

NANDOR

Wait. These...

He picks up a Halloween-themed pack.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

It has a bat? And a vampire? What are these?

CLERK

Those are little charms you can put in the holes of your Crocs to decorate them. They're on sale.

NANDOR

On sale?

Nandor stares at the pack of charms and then at the wall of Crocs.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

It is fate.

He goes to the 50% off Halloween charm display and starts to put the charms rapidly on the counter.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH GUILLERMO

Guillermo is standing in the foyer.

GUILLERMO

We... didn't return the shoes.

Guillermo gestures to his feet. He is now wearing crocs. Bright green. There are charms in them. One set of charms has an I, a heart, and a vampire - "I heart vampires."

GUILLERMO (CONT'D)

New uniform.

He's trying to smile, but he can't.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH NANDOR

Nandor is much happier now.

NANDOR

I realized that Guillermo had a point. He doesn't have them often, but he did tonight. Vampires can wear whatever shoes they want and eat whoever makes them feel bad about it.

He holds up his crocs quite proudly. They have Halloween-themed charms all over them.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

This one is a bat. And here is a vampire. And look! Alexa, turn off the lights!

ALEXA

I'm sorry, I didn't understand that.

NANDOR

Turn. Off. The. Lights.

ALEXA

Turn of the Tide is a 1935 film by-

NANDOR

Fucking....

One of the film crew turns off the lights.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

Thank you. Look!

He holds his crocs up proudly once again. The pins are glow-in-the-dark.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

They glow in the dark!

INT. INTERVIEW WITH GUILLERMO

Overlaid is a montage from Guillermo and Nandor looking through various shoe stores, such as DSW.

GUILLERMO

We also did get him some normal shoes like his old ones for when he needs a more "professional" look. We did some searching and found out the cobbler he loved just changed the store name and moved locations within the mall.

Overlay with Nandor excitedly talking with a short, stout man who looks a bit like a wrinkled leather bag. The Croc store can be seen from the cobbler's entranceway.

GUILLERMO (CONT'D)

Also, I learned that dwarves exist. So that was pretty cool.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Nandor is once again hunting the same victim. He's even scarier than before as he comes up on the guy, grabbing him and turning him around, hissing in his face. The whole time wearing his bright yellow crocs with glow-in-the-dark charms.

VICTIM

You again?!

The victim sees Nandor's shoes.

VICTIM (CONT'D)

Come on. You have to be joking. Those are even worse than before, if that's possible. Halloween was last month!

NANDOR

They are like walking on clouds you judgmental, jealous ninny!

He pulls the victim into a bush and feeds. A moment later, he emerges - covered in blood. His face is messy with blood on his chin.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

I feel amazing. It's been a great day.

He glances down at his shoes, looking for a moment self-conscious.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

You guys can tell me the truth, right?
Are my shoes cool?

Nandor looks at the camera crew expectantly. Slowly the camera nods. More out of fear than out of sincerity. Nandor doesn't care though.

NANDOR (CONT'D)

Thank you. I am glad we can be honest.

And he turns, transforming into a bat before flying off.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Laszlo is walking down the street with his hands deep in his pockets. He looks utterly miserable. Behind him, Nadja comes running up.

NADJA

Laszlo! My love, you worried me! I couldn't find you! Dear, what is the matter?

LASZLO

Have I really lost so much of my talent?

NADJA

You think what those humans have is talent?

She stops Laszlo and makes him look at her.

NADJA (CONT'D)

No. What they have is sadness. A sad, pathetic existence where they try to be entertaining but only earn each other's great pity. You are too bright, too handsome, too wonderful at roleplay to match their below-basement level.

She cups his face.

NADJA (CONT'D)

You know what you're very good at?

She gazes at him suggestively. Laszlo pulls away.

LASZLO

Darling... I don't think I can....

She pulls back. She doesn't believe him.

NADJA

... Okay, even you are not a skilled enough actor to get me to believe such bullshit.

Laszlo laughs.

LASZLO

My dear, you are correct. I should have known you would see through my act!

NADJA

And after, let's go eat those sad humans.

LASZLO

You certainly know how to speak my language.

The cameras start to move away. But Laszlo stops them. He looks to the sound operator.

LASZLO (CONT'D)

You all may leave. But the camera stays.

NADJA

Oh... Laszlo-!

The two vanish into a dark, abandoned building. The camera hesitates before Laszlo's hand comes from the darkened building and beckons the camera forward. The camera reluctantly follows, as though hypnotized.

INT. INTERVIEW WITH COLIN

He's sitting on his bed.

COLIN ROBINSON

How have my new familiars worked out?

There are images of the Amazon Echo on various pieces of antique furniture.

COLIN ROBINSON (CONT'D)

Pretty well, I'd say. Alexa is just toeing the proverbial line between useful and useless. Frustrating to live with and frustrating to live without.

Roomba is shown getting stuck in corners, on rugs, bumping into things. It bumps into Laszlo's writing desk and ink spills onto the floor. The Roomba goes over the ink and spreads it everywhere.

COLIN ROBINSON (CONT'D)

The Roomba is struggling, but it's quiet enough so I don't think it will cause too much trouble. I don't even know where it is, to be honest.

It bumps into another dresser. A wooden stake-like item falls down and lands on top of the Roomba. It continues to go about its duties.

COLIN ROBINSON (CONT'D)

It's not even a real Roomba. It's just a knock-off. It'll probably stop working and die in a week or so.

It lights up red as it moves with the stake. The lighting makes the ink look like dark red blood.

COLIN ROBINSON (CONT'D)

What could go wrong?

END